

# REPORT

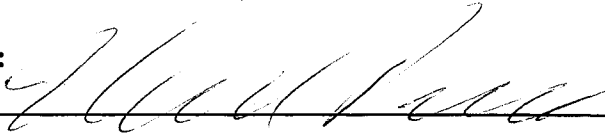
**DATE:** July 12, 2007

**TO:** Administration Committee/Regional Council

**FROM:** Hasan Ikhata, Director of Planning and Policy  
213-236-1944 [ikhata@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ikhata@scag.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility in Switzerland

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:**



**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve one (1) SCAG staff to attend the Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility to Switzerland to be held August 25 – September 1, 2007, in Switzerland.

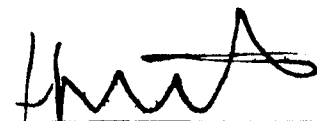
**BACKGROUND:**

Hasan Ikhata has been invited by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles and Presence Switzerland PRS, an organization that coordinates Swiss presence abroad, to participate on a study trip that will provide insights in several fields of public transportation and mobility in Switzerland. This is a great opportunity to promote SCAG's premiere planning efforts to an international audience.

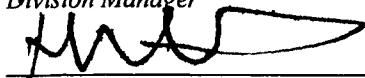
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approximately \$1,500 from the existing travel budget in WBS#07-010.SCGS7 will be utilized.


Reviewed by:

  
Division Manager

Reviewed by:

  
Department Manager

Reviewed by:

  
Chief Financial Officer



## **ThinkSwiss – Brainstorm the Future**

### **Invitation**

**Study Tour on Public Transportation and  
Mobility to Switzerland  
August 25 – September 1, 2007**

Mr. Hasan Ikhata  
Director,  
Planning and Policy Department  
Southern California Association  
of Governments  
818 W. Seventh Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Ikhata

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles and Presence Switzerland cordially invite you to join the study trip to Switzerland on Public Transportation and Mobility from August 25 to September 1, 2007.

Switzerland is located in the very heart of Europe. It connects Germany and Italy through the Alps with the world's largest tunnels. There is even more traffic on the East-West axis. To protect the fragile Alpine valleys and the densely populated urban areas, the Swiss population decided in several votes to shift the transportation of goods from trucks to trains. The Swiss public transportation with a sophisticated railway, bus, tram, and ship system is highly integrated and very popular. Because of its extraordinary quality and reliability Swiss public transport offers an equal mobility for all people, and serves frequently as an alternative to the car.

The program of the study trip will provide insights in the following fields of Public Transportation and Mobility in Switzerland:

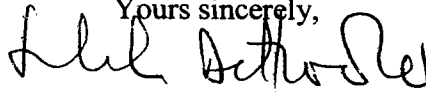
- Infrastructure (tunnel, bridges, maintenance) and rolling material (trains, handling cargo)
- Mobility as an integration of different means of transportation (train, bus, tram, ship, and car sharing), with a focus on timetable, tariffs, role of the different jurisdictions (federal state, cantons, municipalities) and private companies

- Long term financial aspects of mobility
- New concepts of mobility and transportation in rural and urban areas
- Science, technology and education in transportation planning and mobility
- Policy making: Direct democracy and federalism, sustainability, economic development, international relations, etc.

Organized by Presence Switzerland PRS with the assistance of the Swiss Consulate in Boston, the study trip focuses on guided research trips to significant sites, important organizations and innovative companies in different parts of Switzerland. For further details on the study trip please see the annex.

Should you be interested and able to attend this exclusive study trip to Switzerland on public transportation and mobility from August 25 to September 1, 2007, we kindly ask you to complete the attached form and return it to the Consulate General of Switzerland, c/o Norbert Arnold, 11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90025 by June 18, 2007 at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler', written in a cursive style.

Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler  
Consul General of Switzerland

**Annex: Study Tour on Public Transportation and Mobility to Switzerland  
August 25 – September 1, 2007**

**Schedule of the tour**

Saturday, August 25	Departure from your airport, United States
Sunday August 26	Arrival in Zurich, Switzerland, Welcome and introduction of the program in the afternoon
Monday August 27	Guided study trip on public transportation and mobility in Switzerland, detailed program follows, any suggestions welcome
Tuesday August 28	
Wednesday August 29	
Thursday, August 30	
Friday, August 31	
Saturday, September 1	Departure from Zurich and arrival to your airport, United States

**Costs**

Nominal charge of USD 400 per participant (non refundable)

PRS covers economy class flights from your US airport to Zurich Airport, accommodation and meals in Switzerland from August 26 to September 1, travel costs during the study trip. PRS does not cover any applicable hotel service fees (such as laundry) or charges for optional incidentals (such as minibar snacks, internet access or telephone calls).

**Insurance**

The participants of the study trip are insured against accidents during the study trip in Switzerland. PRS does not provide any other medical or health costs a participant may incur during and/or as a result of the study trip.

**Participants**

Limited to 9 participants from different US states (transportation experts, decision-makers, leading administrators, journalists)

**ThinkSwiss**

“Think Swiss – Brainstorm the future” is a US wide program on Education, Research and Innovation for 2007. It aims to highlight and showcase Switzerland as a global, knowledge-based country full of talent, high-tech opportunities and creativity – crucial assets to secure a sustainable quality of life for future generations. Its goal is to foster an even stronger network of long-term relations in education, research and innovation

between the United States and Switzerland. For further information visit the website [www.thinkswiss.org](http://www.thinkswiss.org)

**Contact and accompanying person**

The study trip is organized and accompanied by

**United States:**

Remo Steinmetz, Senior Advisor  
Consulate of Switzerland  
420 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA  
Phone +1 617 876 3076  
Fax +1 617 876 3079  
Email [remo@shareboston.org](mailto:remo@shareboston.org)  
[www.shareboston.org](http://www.shareboston.org)

**Switzerland:**

Lisa Schilling, Foreign Delegations Presence Switzerland PRS, Head of Team  
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Bundesgasse 32  
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E-Mail [lisa.schilling@eda.admin.ch](mailto:lisa.schilling@eda.admin.ch)  
[www.presence.ch](http://www.presence.ch)

**Further information about Switzerland**

[www.swissworld.org](http://www.swissworld.org)

Switzerland's information portal